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State Dept. declassification & release instructions on file

Technical Progress, Zurich: File check summary

1. Re Paris POLTO 1868, 18 May 1954.
2. This check is designed to supplement rather than duplicate information already known by or transmitted to USRO/ST.
3. Technical Progress, Zurich, is reportedly an affiliate of Amertrade Trust, Vaduz. The leading personnel of the two firms are:
  - a. Hoppe, Heinrich August; Amertrade Trust.
  - b. De Puoz, George; manager; Technical Progress.
  - c. Meili, Gertrud; prokurist; Technical Progress.
  - d. Oikonomu, Nicholas; "real owner"; Technical Progress.
4. In January 1952 De Puoz, a lawyer, was reported to be negotiating a copper deal with Falkimex, Zurich, on behalf of a Milan firm.
5. In November 1950 an August Hoppe was approached by a Dr. Kroth, leading member of the Russian Zone inspired trade organization, Gesellschaft fuer Osthandel, Hamburg, relative to negotiations toward opening up direct private enterprise trading between West Germany and China. (B-3)
6. Heinrich (Henri) Hoppe (aka Happe) formerly resided in Berlin W-15. Since December 1951 he has resided at 3 Vogelsangstrasse, Zurich, as well as at Kleine Scheidegg, Zurich. He has reportedly bought thousands of tons of metals from an Antwerp metal dealer, Roger Hecht, a Czech who reportedly sold large quantities of copper knowing that resale behind the Curtain was probable. (Unevaluated)
7. A Hoppe (fnu) has been identified as the head of a branch of DIA-Maschinenbau in Switzerland. He often visits Berlin, usually by plane from Frankfurt-am-Main, and has good connections in Sweden. (Unevaluated)

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11. On 25 September 1953 a Milan newspaper carried a story about the arrest of seven persons at Varese on the night of the 24th and the seizure of four automobiles carrying nickel and cobalt across the frontier to Switzerland. One of those arrested was Natale Cattaneo, 30, from Lugano. It is not known what relation Natale Cattaneo might bear to Elio Cattaneo.

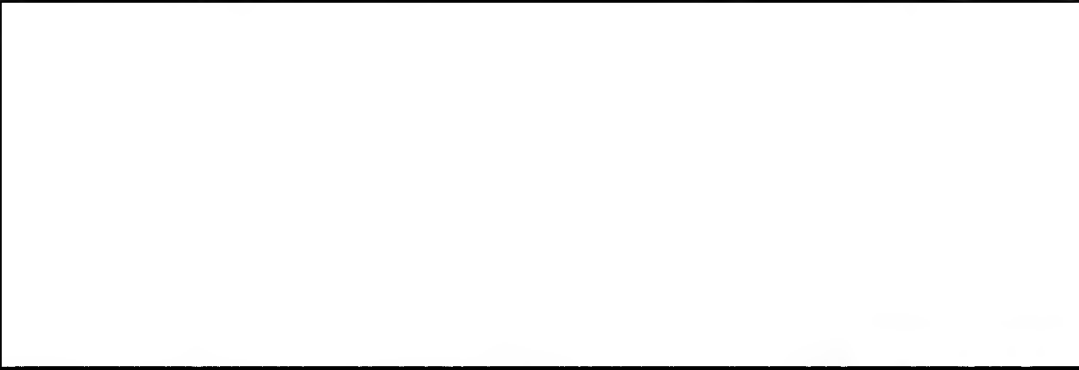
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13. Re Basel D-69, 16 March 1954, transmitted to USRO/ST, and the suggestion that Max Ausnit (Auschnitt) might be linked with Amertrade Trust, Vaduz, through his ownership of Amertrade, Zug, and Amertrade, New York. Treasury reports that Max Ausnit sold out of the New York Amertrade firm in March 1952. Neither Ausnit nor the present owners of Amertrade, New York, know anything about Amertrade Trust, Vaduz. Wilhelm Staehelin is now in Zurich supervising the liquidation of Amertrade, Zug. In the files of Amertrade New York, Treasury investigators found a letter from Anconda Trust, Vaduz. The letter was several years old and the contents were not stated. The letter was signed by Heinrich August Happe.
14. A resume of information on the Technical Progress, Zurich, firm follows. In October 1948 Technical Progress, St. Peterstrasse 16, Zurich, was one of four intermediaries in the shipment of Oerlikon 20mm guns and ammunition through Austria for delivery to the Russians in Vienna. One of the other three companies was Dodo Baby Prams (sic), Bahnhofstrasse 17, Zurich. These two companies were then buying surplus stocks in Germany and reselling them to the USSR. They used the pretext that import licenses to Switzerland required entry via the Arlberg (St. Anton). Upon arrival at Innsbruck, however, the goods were diverted to the Russians in Vienna. (F-4)
15. In February 1952 Technical Progress, Zurich, agreed to pay 27 kroner per kilo for 1138 kilos of Norwegian molybdenum ore at a time when the market price was 15 kroner per kilo, with delivery to be by air to Belgium. (B-2)

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16. During the Spring of 1953 a Swiss firm sold West German chrome metal to Amertrade Trust, Vaduz, 'through the latter's affiliate, Technical Progress, SA'. The chrome metal ultimately went to China.
17. During September 1953 Technical Progress used forged Italian documents to obtain West German export licenses for the shipment of 25 Stock grinding machines to consignees in Italy which later investigation proved to be fictitious. Fourteen of the twenty-five machines were shipped via Switzerland, never reached Italy, and are assumed to have been diverted. The remaining eleven machines were prevented from leaving the Stock factory when the diversion of the first fourteen was discovered.
18. 
19. During January 1954 USRO/ST began its series of messages on the great Ugine cobalt diversion which amounted to approximately 100 tons. Technical Progress used Starax, Vaduz, as cover for this diversion. Interglobe, Vaduz, also appeared as cover for some of the shipment. Two routes were used: one running from Grenoble to Paris, Jeumont, Antwerp, Rotterdam, and to Gdynia; the other running from Grenoble to Bilbao, Rotterdam, and Gdynia. The Spanish shipments were exported from France on the basis of licenses naming fictitious Spanish consignees and moved through Spain in transit.
20. In future requests for file check summaries please indicate the nature of clearance desired.

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